Indigenous

Common names: Ateso: Ekwalakwala, eturukukuti Lugbara: Longoro Luo:

Akwalakwala **Luo** A: Koko **Luo** J: Kikwala **Lusoga:** Muswaki **Madi:** Unde **Runyoro, dialect Bugungu:** Masaga **Sebei:** Mkukwa.

Ecology: A tree growing in lowlands from Kenya to Malawi and South

Africa, from coastal bushland and Brachystegia woodlands up to 1,400 m. In Uganda this shrubby tree occurs in open woodland

and on rocky bills.

**Uses:** Firewood, charcoal, local tools, food (fruit pulp), shade.

**Description:** A shrub or small straight-stemmed tree, usually 3-6 m, without

spines. Branches are often twisted and branchlets hang down. BARK: pale grey, smooth. Branchlets powdery grey-green to yellow-brown. LEAVES: in opposite pairs, widely spaced apart, tough, dull blue-green, with 3-5 main veins and clear net veining, both sides similar, oblong but wider at the rounded tip, 4-10 cm long. FLOWERS: 8 mm long, green-cream, 2-4 in stalked clusters beside leaves, calyx shorter than petals, a ring of white hairs in the throat. FRUIT: round, with a thick woody shell, about 5-7 cm across, blue-green ripening yellow-orange,

containing many seeds in pulp.

**Propagation:** Seedlings (sow seed in pots), direct sowing on site.

**Seed:** Crack the fruit to remove the seeds which are embedded in the

yellow pulp.

**treatment:** not necessary.

storage sow as soon as collected.Management: Pruning, lopping, pollarding.

**Remarks:** It makes excellent firewood that burns even when not dry.

